



**A D A P T**  
**FREE OUR PEOPLE**

1640A E 2<sup>nd</sup> St , #100 \* Austin, Texas 78702  
(512) 442-0252 Office \* (512) 442-0522

**ADAPT's Comments on the Proposed Budget for Sidewalk Construction and Repair in Fiscal Year 2007- 2008**

It is our understanding that the proposed budget for sidewalks includes \$1 million dollars of GO bonds for repair to existing sidewalk and \$1 2 million in Neighborhood Planning and Zoning budget for construction of new sidewalks identified in Neighborhood plans

ADAPT has made numerous attempts to find out what projects are being proposed by staff in the Neighborhood Plans. We have been told by Public Works Staff that they are unaware of any money available in the budget for new construction of sidewalks  
ADAPT believes the City should maintain  
it's full commitment of \$2 2 million for sidewalks and curb cuts.



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## **Housing Issues for People with Disabilities**

### **Affordability**

The City should increase housing for people below 30% MFI. People on SSI have around \$603 a month or \$7,236 a year for income. This equates into less than 15% of Austin's MFI. According to HUD, the 2004 MFI is \$66,900 and \$14,950 is 30% MFI for 1 person. As you can see this is almost 2 ½ times the amount a person on SSI receives. People who earn 60% MFI have an income of \$40,140 and those earning 80% have incomes in excess of \$53,000. In addition, HUD states the Fair Market Rent for the Austin/San Marcus area is \$686 a month at 50% MFI. As you can see a person earning 60 or 80% MFI can easily afford to pay the rental amount whereas a recipient of SSI would have to pay everything he/she receives in rent with nothing left for other bills. Therefore, the current policy of targeting people who earn 60 to 80% MFI results in little if any new housing for people with disabilities and low income wage earners. These facts lead to the conclusion the city should be targeting people at the lower sphere of the income bracket. One way the City should increase housing for people below 30% MFI is to target housing that is built with AHFC money to that population.

**Homebuyer Housing Assistance for People with Disabilities** is important and needs to be supported. We were glad to see it included in the plan.

### **Integration**

People with disabilities need to have the same choices as the rest of the population when it involves finding a place to live. Housing that segregates people based on a particular disability should need must not be accepted much less encouraged by the policy and procedures of a governmental agency. Tight fiscal times should not drive us to create housing that will segregate people decades to come.

### **Accessibility**

### Architectural Barrier Removal Program

ADAPT is concerned about potential cuts to the ABR program. Many disabled Austinites receive SSI or SSDI (\$603 a month). As a result, they are not often going to be able to afford to make modifications such as ramps or widening doors to their apartment or home. ADAPT believes the distribution between homeowner units and rental should be more equal but we are very glad of this critical program!

### Austin Tenants Council

- More than 50% of the discrimination cases ATC has involve people with disabilities, therefore, it is imperative that this agency continue to be funding at the level requested. ATC provides a vital service when they assist people who are discriminated against in the Austin housing market.

### Building Code

- We congratulate Austin, and thank the CDC for supporting, the passing a new City multi family residential building code that is equivalent to fair housing access standards. This is a great first step.
- Now we need to apply the same concepts to single family housing. Our over 7 year history with the Visitability Ordinance shows it can be done, easily, economically and well! So ADAPT would like to see this expanded to ALL single family housing, not just housing developed with city assistance.

### Website

It would be great to include information about Visitability on the City's website NHCD section and links to UFAS, FHAA Access Guidelines and ADA Access Guidelines.

### Voluntary Compliance Program

- This report shows that enforcement works. Without it the VAST majority, if not all of the units were not in compliance. Now most are! Enforcement works and needs to be supported!

### Affirmative Marketing

Affirmative marketing should include people with disabilities. Neither the program guidelines (V-2) nor the non-discrimination (III-3) statement address disability – but they should. In addition marketing to increase Home Ownership to Special Populations should include people with disabilities.

Progress report on ADAPT S Curb Cut/Sidewalk Priority List

Locations listed in 1993

South Congress from the river to Ben White Was completed in 1994 but now needs repairs City staff has scheduled repair work to be done from Ceasar Chavez to Oltorf

Guadalupe Some work has been done but it is still not fully accessible City staff has scheduled work to be done this year from 45<sup>th</sup> Lamar to Guadalupe and 38<sup>th</sup> Street Lamar Gaudalupe

Riverside Drive Work has been done but there are still gaps City staff has scheduled work this year from South Lakeshore blvd to west Ben White blvd And on Hoeke from Rusty to Riverside

Oltorf Street Work was done from Oltorf and Burton to South 1<sup>st</sup> street in 1994 but now repairs need to be made and Driveway transitions need to be made accessible Staff has scheduled work to be done on Oltorf from IH35 to South Pleasant Valley Road and Oltorf to South Pleasant Valley to Montopolis

North Lamar Blvd Work has been done from 5<sup>th</sup> Street the 5500 block but there are still gaps and repairs need to be made Staff has scheduled work to be done on North Lamar from Airport to Gaudalupe

Ceasar Chavez Street especially from I-35 to Chicon Needs repair

Lavaca Street Not done yet

South First Street some work has been done but has not been finished

West 35<sup>th</sup> Street Some work has been done but it is not finished

Burnet Road Parts of Burnet have been made accessible but a lot of work remains to be done

Airport Blvd Some work has been done but more is needed Repairs need to be made and sidewalk gaps need to be filled

Barton Springs and Riverside intersection NE and NW is done

Keonig Lane, Allendale and Northland is not done

West 35<sup>th</sup> Street Some work has been done but it is not finished

South Lamar and Panther intersection by Porter JR High is done

32<sup>nd</sup> Street and IH-35 to cross the freeway is done

Runberg Lane – Work has been done gaps in sidewalk need to be filled and repairs need to be made

Martin Luther King Blvd (especially the area along , Rio Grande, Pearl to the KXAN parking lot\ Robbins) not finished yet

Greathills and Jollyville Road is not done yet

Metric Blvd Not done yet (Especially at The Trails of Walnut Creek 11511 Metric Blvd There are curbs leading to drive ways )

East 7<sup>th</sup> Street work has been done but gaps in sidewalk remain

Anderson Lane is not finished yet

Parmer Lane is not finished yet

William Cannon between IH-35 and Pleasant Valley needs sidewalk Sidewalk at 2909 West William Cannon by Jubilee Church needs repair

Pleasant Valley – Some work is being done now

San Antonio between 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> is done

East 6<sup>th</sup> Street not done yet

East 12<sup>th</sup> \ Rosewood repairs need to be made, sidewalk gaps need to be filled and utilities need to be moved

West 12<sup>th</sup> alley on the south side, across from Marshall Lane just past Maufrais is done

South corner Congress and College, DAR Park is done

7<sup>th</sup> Street between Congress and Colorado, North side alley entrance is not done yet

5<sup>th</sup> Street south side at Neches, Red River and Sabine are done